

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00131 250446Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3134

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA CH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON USLO

REF: STATE 015476

1. IN RESPONSE PARA 2 REFTEL, ALL USLO PERSONNEL MUST FILE STANDARD WRITTEN REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF 20 KILOMETER RADIUS OF PEKING, INCLUDING WHEN THEY ACCOMPANY U.S. VISITING DELEGATIONS. REQUEST ROUTINELY SPECIFIES ALL CITIES TO BE VISITED AND APPROXIMATE DATE OF RETURN TO PEKING. IN CASE OF ESCORT OFFICERS, SINCE MFA ALREADY INFORMED USLO OFFICER WILL BE PART OF DELEGATION, APPROVAL IS AUTOMATIC AND CAN BE OBTAINED ON SHORT NOTICE. QUESTION OF AMENDING AN ITINERARY ONCE ON THE ROAD HAS NEVER ARISEN. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT IF DELEGATION'S ITINERARY CHANGED, CHINESE HOSTS WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO AMEND TRAVEL PERMIT FOR USLO ESCORT OFFICER. IN CASE OF INDIVIDUAL USLO TRAVELLERS, WE ASSUME PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO MAKE REQUEST THROUGH CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE WHO WOULD THEN HAVE TO SEEK CHANGE THROUGH MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, PEKING. CHANGES FOR INDIVIDUALS COULD VERY WELL BE "INCONVENIENT". HOWEVER, CITIES CAN BE DROPPED OR DURATION OF TRIP SHORTENED WITHOUT REQUESTING APPROVAL.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00131 250446Z

2. AS FOR OTHER USG PERSONNEL VISITING CHINA ON CONSULTATIONS,

THEY ARE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO PROCEED FIRST TO PEKING WHERE A TRAVEL PERMIT SPECIFYING DATES AND NAMES OF OTHER CITIES TO BE VISITED IS ISSUED. CHINESE HAVE BEEN RATHER TIGHT ON THESE REQUESTS, AND WE HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN ON REQUESTS FOR VISITS TO SIAN, LOYANG, NANKING, CHANGSHA AND SHENYANG. ONLY CITIES APPROVED FOR USG PERSONNEL OTHER THAN USLO OFFICERS IN REENT MONTHS HAVE BEEN SHANGHAI, CANTON AND HANGCHOW. AGAIN, ANY CHANGE OF ITINERARY OR A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SAY WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING, AND WE WOULD NOT RATE CHANGES OF APPROVAL VERY HIGH.

3. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH BRITISH HERE, AND THEY CANNOT RECALL AN INSTANCE OF THEIR PERSONNEL CHANGING THEIR ITINERARY WHILE ON THE ROAD EITHER. THEY AGREE WITH OUR ASSUMPTIONS CONCERNING PROCEDURE.

HOLDRIDGE

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